Grange over Sands Urban District Council.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health. 1918.

Ulverston

March, 1919

Gentlemen

It is again my duty to present to you my Annual Report which deals with the health and sanitary condition of the district over which I exercise supervision. The L.G.B. Board request that the report shall be made as brief as possible.

Inspection of District

Your district is kept under careful supervision, regular systematic inspections are made, and also special inspections in the case of the outbreak of any of the infectious diseases or complaints of sanitary defects.

Sanitary Condition and Progress.

Water Supply. No anxiety was felt during the year as to the sufficiency of the water supply. The rainfall was the highest recorded for the 20 years. As the total given herewith shows, the rainfall was nearly 16 inches more than the average for the last 7 years.

Rainfall at Ulverston Waterworks.

	1918	Average of 7 years. 1911-1917.
January	5.41 ins	4.398 ins
February	5.01	4.331
March	2.35	3.820
April	1.67	2.849
May	3.02	3.165
June	2.96	3.391
July	6.37	3.577
August	6.34	5.624
September	14.90	3.631
October	7.07	5.810
November	3.39	5.766
December	10.26	5.572
Totals	68.71 ins	52.234 ins.

Last year I mentioned that provision had been made, should the necessity arise, to pump water from the Spring in the Main St Gardens, but it was never necessary to resort to any augmentation of the supply from this source, and this, in spite of the fact that the Riverton Rural Council took for the supply of the Kaituna Valley, nearly 3 million gallons more than in 1917. As to the purity of the water, this has never been questioned, but to be quite sure upon the point, it was submitted to chemical and bacteriological examination with a satisfactory result.

New Sheds No new shed work has been carried out during the year.

Sewerage & Drainage The sewerage and drainage system has been maintained in a very satisfactory condition.

House Refuse Removal. I have every confidence in saying that this important branch of sanitary administration is carried out efficiently, although there has been a reduction in the amount collected and removed to tips, but this has been due in a great measure to the fact that great economy in fuel was necessary, and also as a result of the appeals made to householders to burn as much of the combustible material as possible.

Total collected.		
	1918	815 tons
	1917	559 "
	1916	757 "
	1915	1140½ "

Waste paper was collected by voluntary workers, and the proceeds of the sale thereof distributed to War Charities.

House Disinfection The cleaning and disinfection of premises after the occurrence of any of the infectious diseases needs careful attention. 11 rooms in 5 houses have been dealt with during the year.

Bakehouses. There has been no alteration in the number of bakehouses.

Slaughter Houses. Only one registered slaughter house is in use. An inspection was made of a building for which

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it was intended to apply for a licence, and recommendations made by your officials as to structural alterations which would be required. The matter was not proceeded with.

Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops. There are within your district

5 Cowsheds & Dairyes of Milk.
3 Cowsheds.
2 Purveyors of Milk.

4 Milk dairies from the adjoining Rural District retail milk in your district also.

Offensive Trades. There are no trades of this class in your district.

Housing, Town Planning &c Act. 1909. I think there can be little doubt but that there is a shortage of houses of the cottage class in Thurgy, as quite a number of workers who earn a living in the town, now reside accommodation in the neighbouring Rural District. With a view to remedying this, the Council have had under consideration a Scheme of Housing & Town Planning, and in due course an application will be submitted to the Local Government Board.

Factory and Workshops Acts. The following premises come under these Acts, and generally are found to be in good order and condition.

Factories.	1 Laundry.	1 Engineering Works.
	1 Bobbin Works.	1 Letterpress Printing Works
	1 Joinery	
Workshops.	1 Bootmaker	1 Joinery
	1 Blacksmith	1 Dressmakers & Millinery
	1 Basket Maker	
	Manufacturer	

Inspections have been made as follows:-

Factories	12	
Workshops	50	
Workplaces	40	Total 102

Report of Inspector of Nuisances for Year 1918.

Statutory notices served (Annuals improperly kept.)	1
do complied with	1
Informal Notice written	10
do complied with.	10
Rooms disinfected	11
Slaughter house inspections	34.
Bakehouses inspections	22.
Factory, Workshops, & inspections	102

Vital Statistics

Assessable Value. (General District Rate)	1917	£ 18.979. 7. 6
do	1918	£ 18.933 - 10 - 0
Inhabited houses	1911	470
do	1918	472
Area in acres		1844½
Population (enumerated 1911)		2232
do (estimated 1918.)		2200

Births During the year there have been 18 births which produces a birth rate of 8.0 per 1000. In the year 1917 there were 15 births, the birth rate then being 7.5 per 1000. 8 male children and 10 females have been born. There have been 2 illegitimate births.

Deaths. The number of deaths registered as arising in the district has been 41, but as 6 of these have been non-residents, and have been transferred away, the deaths of residents arising in the district will be reduced to 35, but 6 deaths have occurred in residents outside the district, and have been transferred to it, the corrected number of deaths will therefore be 41, and the death rate 18.6 per 1000. In the previous year 27 deaths were recorded, equal to a death rate of 11.9 per 1000. There have been 24 deaths in females, and 17 in males. The number of deaths will probably be the highest recorded for an any rate, the last 21 years. This increase

may be in some extent ascribed to the epidemic of Influenza which accounts for 5 deaths.

Infantile Deaths. There have been 2 deaths in infants under 1 year old (both from Pneumonia). The infantile death rate is equal to 111.1 per 1000 births. There were no deaths at this age period in 1917. The death rate of infants would appear to be very high, so far as actual figures are concerned, but we have to bear in mind that in dealing with a small population and low birth rate, every death makes such an enormous difference in the death rate, thus with 18 as the number of births, 1 infantile death would mean a death rate of 55.5 per 1000 births.

Senile Deaths. There have been 6 deaths in persons of 65 years of age and upwards.

Phthisis. This disease has been responsible for 4 deaths.

Zymotic Deaths. There has been one death due to Diphtheria, which is equal to a death rate from Zymotic causes of .55 per 1000. In the previous year there were no deaths from diseases classified under this heading.

Notification of Infectious Diseases. I have received 21 certificates notifying cases of the diseases classed as infectious, amongst which is included Phthisis or Tuberculosis of the Lungs:-

Diphtheria	2.	Measles	16
Typhoid Fever	2.	Phthisis	6
Scarlet Fever	1		

Diphtheria. One of the cases of Diphtheria occurred at Bonsdale Terrace in a child aged 4, and proved rapidly fatal. Careful investigation revealed no cause for the origin of the disease. The second case was notified on the 29th May in a female aged 26. Bacteriological examination in this case failed to substantiate the diagnosis.

Scarlet Fever. Only one case of Scarlet Fever was reported and this arose in a convalescent wounded soldier at the

Eggesland Military Hospital. In this case the infection was imported.

Measles. Although 15 cases of measles were notified, the disease was never present in a very severe epidemic form.

Typhoid Fever. The first case of this disease was notified on the 15th March and occurred in a good class semi-detached villa residence, in which the sanitary arrangements were quite satisfactory. It is somewhat significant that the sufferer had been engaged as a Nurse at the Eggesland Auxiliary Military Hospital where there was an outbreak of suspicious disease, of which I have to write at greater length.

In consequence of a case arising in the Rural District of Ulverston, and which presented suspicious symptoms, my attention was directed to the Eggesland Auxiliary Military Hospital where the young lady had been acting as Nurse, and found from the Medical Officer in charge that some of the men had been running high temperatures, and had been generally unwell, but there had never been any of the classical symptoms of typhoid present. Samples of blood were taken from two of the worst cases, and in one case, a distinct reaction was obtained, in the other, the result was doubtful. Such an outbreak, naturally gave rise to an enquiry by the Military Authorities, and acting upon their instructions, the whole of the patients and all the available attendants had blood tests made, with the result that all the patients but two gave a positive result, and all the attendants but two, gave a negative result. Careful investigation into the sanitary conditions prevailing at the Hospital was made, and although at first there appeared to be some confusion as to the source of the drinking water, the fact was finally elicited that only water from the Borrowdale mains had been used for this purpose, and that on bacteriological examination was proved to be quite free from suspicion of any contamination, neither was there any defect in the drainage, and the milk supply was above suspicion. It has to be borne in mind

that, with one exception, the men had been subjected to inoculation against Typhoid, and this opens up a very interesting subject for enquiry as to how long a positive reaction will be given in such cases, and to what extent the inoculation may render men liable to propagate the disease. In any event, I am convinced the disease was not ordinary typhoid, as it is scarcely conceivable that in an Inoculation of 46 persons, the disease would be confined to those who had undergone preventative inoculation.

Influenza. Our district suffered severely from the epidemic of Influenza which prevailed so extensively in the Autumn, and 5 deaths were attributable to the disease, but only 3 were resident in Grange at the time of death, and of these latter, the first was a boy aged 6, and occurred on the 14th November, and the third is a female aged 52, on the 17th November. The Elementary Day Schools were closed for three weeks.

In concluding my report, I must thank the Surveyor and Inspector for his ever-ready co-operation.

I am, Gentlemen
Yours obediently
G. H. Patterson
L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng., D.P.H. Lond.,
Medical Officer of Health.

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